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A Short and True State of the Caſe, relating to the Election for the Burrough of Corffe Caſtle, *in the Iſle of* Purbeck, *and County of* Dorſet, *which was on the 4th of* Auguſt, 1698.

Willam Culliford & *Edward Clauell* } Eſqs; ſtood againſt { *John Bankes* & *Richard Fownes* } Eſqs;

Mr *Culliford* & Mr *Bankes* } Were Returned, and are the Sitting Members. { Mr *Clauell* & Mr *Fownes* } are the Petitioners.

BY the Mayors Poll (who as chief Magiſtrate is Judge of the Election) after the ſtricteſt Scrutiny imaginable, and a good deal of partiality ſhow'd by the Mayor in favour of Mr *Bankes* and Mr *Fownes*, Mr *Culliford* had 85 Votes, Mr *Bankes* 70 Votes; Mr *Clauell* (who Petitions againſt Mr *Bankes*) 63 Votes, and Mr *Fownes* (who Petitions againſt Mr *Culliford*) but 52 Votes, whereupon the Mayor proclaimed Mr *Culliford* and Mr *Bankes* duly Elected.

Mr *Fownes* in his Petition allows the Majority to be on Mr *Culliford*'s ſide upon the Poll; But ſays that Mr *Culliford*, by Treating, and ſeveral indirect Practices, at and before the Election, did procure ſeveral Votes to his prejudice; otherwiſe he had been Choſen and Return'd; alledging he can prove the ſame.

Mr *Culliford* denies the fact abſolutely, and believes that no perſon, who has either Credit or Reputation in his Country, or can be truſted there for ſix-pence, will pretend to prove any ſuch thing.

Mr *Clauell* in his Petition againſt Mr *Bankes* Inſiſts to prove, that the Mayor did allow 5 perſons to Vote for a Charity, contrary to all former uſeage, and againſt Law; and alſo 13 perſons more, that pretended to have purchaſed ſeveral ſmall Tenements of one Mr *Duckombe*, juſt before the Election; which, as is conceived, is expreſsly againſt the late Act of Parliament, *for preventing the ſplitting and dividing of intereſt in Houſes or Lands, in order to multiply Votes:* for that the ſame was not known in the Burrough above a week before the Election, and the Leaſes were dated all of one day, and ſome of the perſons that bought the ſaid Tenements never had ſeen them, or took poſſeſſion of the ſame, until the day of Election. Which ſaid 5 Truſtees, and 13 new made Votes, voted all for Mr *Bankes* and Mr *Fownes*. Which, if ſet aſide, then the Poll will ſtand, for Mr *Culliford* 85, for Mr *Clauell* 63, for Mr *Bankes* 52, and for Mr *Fownes* but 34 Votes.